

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners who have disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, they serve as devoted companions, helpers, aides, best friends and close family members; and

**WHEREAS**, assistance dogs include service dogs, guide dogs, hearing alert dogs, psychiatric service dogs and alert/seizure response dogs; and

**WHEREAS**, guide dogs assist people with vision loss, leading these individuals around physical obstacles and to destinations such as seating, crossing streets, entering and exiting doorways, elevators, stairways, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, service dogs assist people with disabilities with walking, balance, dressing, transferring from place to place, retrieving and carrying items, medication reminders, opening doors and drawers, pushing buttons, room searches, pulling wheelchairs, safety checks, and aiding with household chores such as putting in and removing clothes from the washer and dryer; and

**WHEREAS**, hearing alert dogs alert people who are Deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of specific sounds such as doorbells, telephones, crying babies, sirens, another person, buzzing timers or sensors, knocks at the door as well as smoke, fire and clock alarms; and

**WHEREAS**, seizure alert/seizure response dogs are trained to alert and/or respond to seizures; and

**WHEREAS**, medical alert/medical response dogs alert or respond to oncoming medical conditions such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post-traumatic stress; and

**WHEREAS**, International Assistance Dog Week raises awareness of the selfless way all types of assistance dogs assist individuals with disabilities to live independently in their community, enjoying family and friends, community activities, recreation and employment;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do proclaim August 7-13, 2016 as

**ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of  
Vermont on this 14th day of July, A.D. 2016



---

Peter Shumlin  
Governor